

Council Chairman
Christopher J. Pia

Council Chairman Pro Tempore
Ken T. Poisson



Council Members

Christopher J. Pia - District 1
Kaitlyn Shake - District 2
Paul A. Tavaras - District 3
David L. Harden - District 4
Gregory R. Cann - District 5
Ken T. Poisson - District 6
William F. Perillo - District 7
James J. Connor - District 8
William O'Brien, Jr. - District 9
Laura J. Dancho - District 10

STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Room 212
2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615
(203) 385-4035

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Stratford Town Council conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on November 8, 2021 pursuant to notice duly posted.

CALL TO ORDER 8:00 p.m.

PRESIDING: Council Chairman Mr. Pia

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Shake, Mr. Tavaras, Mr. Harden, Mr. Cann, Mr. Poisson, Mr. Perillo, Mr. Connor; Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Dancho

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Hoydick, CAO Tymniak, Finance Director Savo, Town Attorney Hodgson, Assistant Town Attorneys LeClerc, Florek, and Cotter, Human Resources Director Ing, Chief of Staff Downes, Brian Snyder-President-Snyder Architects

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Harden, District 4

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES —Regular Meeting October 12, 2021

RESOLVED: that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 12, 2021 be dispensed with as copies thereof have been previously provided to each Council Member and the same be and are hereby approved.

MS. DANCHO MOVED ITEM 1; SECONDED BY MR. POISSON. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

3. COMMUNICATIONS, BILLS, PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES

3.1 Monthly Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) report – provided by Finance Director Savo followed by brief discussion.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT, COMMITTEE REPORTS, TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

4.1 **MAYOR'S REPORT** included:

- COVID Updates
- Flu shots
- Breastfeeding Awareness Program
- Hurricane Season/Preparedness
- Grand Opening – Ruby and Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum

- Return of the Great Pumpkin Festival
- The Center for Family Justice regional Domestic Violence Awareness Month vigil held at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport
- New roof – Bethlehem House II
- \$43,000 grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Policing Services (COPS)
- Stratford EMS Volunteer Helen “Bunnie” McQuilton receives Lifetime Achievement Award at the CT EMS Awards Ceremony
- Veterans Day Ceremony – Academy Hill 11/11 at 11:00 a.m.
- Stratford Veterans Museum ribbon cutting 11/13
- PAL Paint Night Fundraiser
- Menorah lighting
- Holiday Tree lighting
- SAEP update
- Center School property update
- Contract Plating update
- New businesses and new business leases
- Shop Small Saturday Nov. 27
- Thanksgiving Day Football

4.2 QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

Mr. Cann re: Center School property revaluation and SAEP ROD and dredging

Ms. Shake re: mask mandate and CARES funding audit

4.3 COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.3.1 The Building Needs Committee held a regular meeting November 1, 2021 and referred the following to Town Council with favorable recommendations:

- A.** Town Bid #2022-017 for Wooster Middle School Roof Replacement awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, A. Secondino & Son, Inc. of Branford, CT in the amount of \$2,052,000

RESOLVED: that the award of Town Bid #2022-017 for Wooster Middle School Roof Replacement to the lowest responsible bidder, A. Secondino & Son, Inc. of Branford, CT in the amount of \$2,052,000 be and is hereby approved and the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to enter into a contract for such in form acceptable to the Town Attorney.

- B.** Town Bid #2022-018 Second Hill Lane School Roof Replacement awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, A. Secondino & Son, Inc. of Branford, CT in the amount of \$1,638,000

RESOLVED: that the award of Town Bid #2022-018 for Second Hill Lane School Roof Replacement to the lowest responsible bidder, A. Secondino & Son, Inc. of Branford, CT in the amount of \$1,638,000 be and is hereby approved and the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to enter into a contract for such in form acceptable to the Town Attorney.

- C.** Town Bid #2022-019 Chapel School Roof Replacement to the lowest responsible bidder, A. Secondino & Son, Inc. of Branford, CT in the amount of \$1,361,000

RESOLVED: that the award of Town Bid #2022-019 for Chapel School Roof Replacement to the lowest responsible bidder, A. Secondino & Son, Inc. of Branford, CT in the amount of \$1,361,000 be and is hereby approved and the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to enter into a contract for such in form acceptable to the Town Attorney.

MR. POISSON MOVED ITEMS 4.3.1 A, B, & C; SECONDED BY MR. HARDEN. Brief discussion followed, CAO Tymniak providing details and clarifications. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.4 TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT – provided by Town Attorney Hodgson

4.4.1 Douglas O'Meara v. Town of Stratford (Executive session requested)

MR. O'BRIEN MOVED; SECONDED BY MR. CONNOR TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR ITEM 4.4.1 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PENDING LITIGATION. ENTERING EXECUTIVE SESSION WILL BE ALL COUNCIL, MAYOR HOYDICK, TOWN ATTORNEY HODGSON, ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEYS LECLERC, FLOREK, AND COTTER, CAO TYMNIAC, FINANCE DIRECTOR SAVO, HUNAM RESOURCE DIRECTOR ING, CHIEF OF STAFF DOWNES. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Executive Session commenced at 8:39 p.m.

MR. O'BRIEN MOVED TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION; SECONDED BY MS. DANCHO. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Executive Session ended and the public meeting reconvened at 8:51 p.m.

MR. O'BRIEN MOVED; SECONDED BY MS DANCHO TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO PROCEED AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS and/or OLD BUSINESS

6. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

6.1 ORDINANCES

6.2 RESOLUTIONS

6.2.1 RESOLUTION REGARDING LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL GRANT

Executive Summary: *The Town of Stratford is the fiscal agency for the Stratford Partnership for Youth & Families, a community-based coalition eligible to receive this non-competitive grant. These funds build local capacity to plan and implement substance use/misuse prevention strategies to reduce problem behaviors and associated negative outcomes for all ages. Specifically, funds will be used to reduce vaping rates among 12 – 18 year old youth and increase substance abuse prevention. Strategies include compliance checks of vape product merchants to reduce youth access; social media campaigns to increase perception of harm and/or peer disapproval of youth vaping and parental disapproval of youth vaping; and implementation of a community survey of behavioral health and data analysis.*

Sponsored by: Stratford Town Council

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford has been awarded a grant from The Hub CT, a division of RYASAP, and Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the Local Prevention Council Grant in an amount not to exceed \$12,191.55 requiring \$0 Town matching dollars; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Stratford enter into a grant agreement with The Hub CT, a division of RYASAP, and Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to accept funding in connection with this grant.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD:

1. That it is cognizant of the Town's contract with The Hub CT and Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the Local Prevention Council Grant in an amount not to exceed \$12,191.55 requiring \$0 Town matching dollars; and,
2. That it hereby authorizes, directs and empowers the Mayor, Laura R. Hoydick, or her designee to execute and deliver such grant application (including any amendments thereto) and/or any and all related documents necessary to apply for and obtain funding from The Hub CT and Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and to implement the program once the award is secured in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Stratford.

MR. PERILLO MOVED ITEM 6.2.1; SECONDED BY MR. TAVARAS. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2.2 RESOLUTION REGARDING FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROGRAM SUPPORT GRANT FOR SUMMER 2022

Executive Summary: The South End Community Center provides a valuable and effective summer learning program, Summer Soiree, for low and moderate income children primarily from Stratford's south end neighborhood. This grant supports the participation of elementary-age children in traditional day camp and academic enrichment experiences and middle school youth as Leaders In Training develop work readiness skills.

Sponsored by: Stratford Town Council

WHEREAS, the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF) is authorized to extend financial assistance to local social services programs in the form of grants; and,

WHEREAS, this funding has been made possible through FCCF Program Support Grants; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford's South End Community Center will expend funds to implement its Summer Learning, Enrichment & Employment Program 2022, which helps vulnerable Stratford children in grades K-6 achieve academic success and helps vulnerable Stratford youths in grades 7-9 prepare for post-high school employment or higher learning; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Stratford enter into an agreement with the Fairfield County Community Foundation in the amount of \$18,000 requiring \$0 Town matching dollars.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD:

1. That it is cognizant of the Town's grant application to the Fairfield County Community Foundation for Program Support; and,
2. That it hereby authorizes, directs and empowers the Mayor, Laura R. Hoydick, or her designee to execute and deliver such grant application (including any amendments thereto) and/or any and all related documents necessary to apply for and obtain funding from the Fairfield County Community Foundation and to implement the program once the award is secured in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Stratford.

MR. HARDEN MOVED ITEM 6.2.2; SECONDED BY MR. PERILLO. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2.3 RESOLUTION REGARDING CT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY 2022 HIGHWAY SAFETY PROJECT GRANT FOR “CLICK IT OR TICKET” SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT BY STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Executive Summary: *Stratford Police Department will participate once again in the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Click It Or Ticket passenger vehicle seat belt law enforcement program. The purpose is to reduce the number of unbelted persons in vehicles and thereby reduce the number of unbelted persons being injured or killed in motor vehicle crashes. Periods of special enforcement are late November to early December 2021 and mid-May to early June 2022.*

Sponsored by: Stratford Town Council

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is authorized to extend financial assistance to municipalities in the form of grants; and,

WHEREAS, this funding has been made possible from the FY 2022 Highway Safety Project Grant Program; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford will expend funds to conduct special roving patrols and motor vehicle stops toward the goal of reducing unbelted passengers in motor vehicles and possible injuries and fatalities to unbelted passengers in motor vehicles; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Stratford enter into an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Transportation in the amount of \$9,549 requiring \$0 Town matching dollars.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD:

1. That it is cognizant of the Town’s grant application to the Connecticut Department of Transportation for funds to support special enforcement of motor vehicle passenger seat belt laws; and,
2. That it hereby authorizes, directs and empowers the Mayor, Laura R. Hoydick, or her designee to execute and deliver such grant application (including any amendments thereto) and/or any and all related documents necessary to apply for and obtain funding from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and to implement the program once the award is secured in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Stratford.

MR.PERILLO MOVED ITEM 6.2.3; SECONDED BY MR. HARDEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2.4 RESOLUTION REGARDING 2022 FEDERAL CLEAN VESSEL ACT GRANT ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR TOWN’S PUMPOUT BOAT OPERATIONS AND EXPENSES

Executive Summary: *This is an annual program where the Waterfront and Harbor Management Commission applies for Clean Vessel Act Grant through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. This is a competitive grant program. The grant funds for 2022 Boating Season were awarded for operations and maintenance of Stratford’s pumpout boat, which cleans out the waste holding tanks of recreational boats, as requested by boat owners.*

Sponsored by: Stratford Town Council

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is authorized to extend financial assistance to municipalities in the form of grants; and,

WHEREAS, this funding has been made possible from the 2022 Federal Clean Vessel Act Grant Program; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford expends funds to operate and maintain its pumpout boat to serve local boat owners; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Stratford enter into an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in the amount of \$33,746.25 requiring \$11,249 in Town Match, which may be in the form of in-kind services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD:

1. That it is cognizant of the Town's grant application to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for funds to operate and maintain its pumpout boat, and,
2. That it hereby authorizes, directs and empowers the Mayor, Laura R. Hoydick, or her designee to execute and deliver such grant application (including any amendments thereto) and/or any and all related documents necessary to apply for and obtain funding from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and to implement the program once the award is secured in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Stratford.

MS. DANCHO MOVED ITEM 6.2.4; SECONDED BY MR. O'BRIEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2.5 RESOLUTION REGARDING STERLING HOUSE GRANT

Sponsored by: Stratford Town Council

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 4-66c, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Stratford make an application(s) to the State for a total of \$2,510,000 in order to undertake improvements to Sterling House, including installation of upgraded water and gas lines, installation of a fire sprinkler system, replacement of the heating and cooling system, roof replacement, roof repairs, chimney repairs, brick façade repairs, exterior, door and window repairs, repairs to water damaged portions of the interior and renovations to preschool bathrooms, and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-66c; and,
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Stratford in an amount not exceed \$2,510,000 is hereby approved and that the Mayor, Laura R. Hoydick, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of Town of Stratford.

MR. O'BRIEN MOVED ITEM 6.2.5; SECONDED BY MS. DANCHO. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Referred by the Zoning Commission with a favorable recommendation subsequent to a public hearing and vote to opt out:

- opt out of the Accessory Dwelling Unit/Apartment provisions of Public Act 21-29

RESOLVED: that the Stratford Town Council votes to opt out of the Accessory Dwelling Unit/Apartment provisions of Public Act 21-29, subsequent to a public hearing, vote to opt out, and referral with favorable recommendation from the Stratford Zoning Commission.

MS. DANCHO MOVED ITEM 7.1; SECONDED BY MR. OBRIEN. Discussion followed. MR. CANN MOVED; SECONDED BY MR. TAVARAS TO AMEND TO ALLOW FOR A TEMPORARY TRIAL PERIOD. THE MOTION TO AMEND FAILED 3 TO 7 – MR. HARDEN, MR. POISSON, MR. PERILLO, MR. CONNOR, MR. O'BRIEN, MS. DANCHO, CHAIRMAN PIA OPPOSED. THE MAIN MOTION PASSED 7 TO 3 – MS. SHAKE, MR. TAVARAS, MR. CANN OPPOSED.

7.2 Referred by the Zoning Commission with a favorable recommendation subsequent to a public hearing and vote to opt out:

- opt out of the limitation/reduction of parking requirement provisions set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-2(d)(9), pursuant to Public Act 21-29

RESOLVED: that the Stratford Town Council votes to opt out of the limitation/reduction of parking requirement provisions set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-2(d)(9), pursuant to Public Act 21-29, subsequent to a public hearing, vote to opt out, and referral with favorable recommendation from the Stratford Zoning Commission.

MS. DANCHO MOVED ITEM 7.2; SECONDED BY MR. HARDEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.3 Award of Town Bid #2022-14 – Longbrook Tennis Courts

- Award of Town Bid #2022-14 - Longbrook Tennis Courts to Classic Turf Company, L.L.C. of Woodbury, CT based upon the lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$703,918, as referred by the Parks and Recreation Committee with a favorable recommendation.

RESOLVED: that the award of Town Bid #2022-14- Longbrook Tennis Courts to Classic Turf Company, L.L.C. of Woodbury, CT based upon the lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$703,918 be and is hereby approved and that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to enter into a contract for such in form acceptable to the Town Attorney.

MR. O'BRIEN MOVED ITEM 7.3; SECONDED BY MR. PERILLO. Brian Snyder, Snyder Architects and Town Attorney Hodgson provided details, clarifications, and answered questions. THE MOTION PASSED 9 TO 1 – MS. SHAKE OPPOSED.

7.4 APPOINTMENTS

7.4.1 Confirmation of Mayoral appointment

RESOLVED: that the Mayor's appointment of Joseph Bonitatebus to the Ethics Commission be and is hereby confirmed.

CHAIRMAN PIA CONFIRMED ITEM 7.4.1

7.5 COMMENTS/REMARKS FROM 2019-2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS (3 minute time limit for each Council Member) – Remarks given by each Council Member.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MR. POISSON MOVED TO ADJOURN; SECONDED BY MR. O'BRIEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

ATTEST: Margo Paquette
Margo Paquette, Council Clerk